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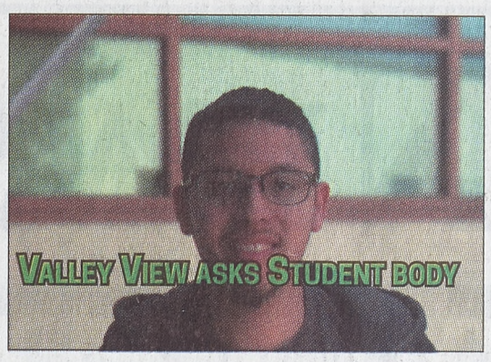
The Valley Star

AN INDEPENDENT MEDIA OUTLET

VOLUME 85 , ISSUE 8 | VALLEY STAR MAY 18, 2017 | WWW.THEVALLEYSTAR.COM



The votes are in

A lack of student participation leaves ASU positions open.

BY HERBERT ORELLANA
STAFF WRITER

After this year's Associated Student Union election votes are counted, two key executive positions will be left unfilled.

No student ran for either president or vice president for the ASU 2017-2018 election, and eight commissioned positions will also be left vacant. The new ASU will consist only of Joseph Cantona as Treasurer, Meyrav Revivo as Environmental Affairs Commissioner, Joselyn Yang as Fine Arts Commissioner, Rosie Avestisyan as Student and Social affairs and Kiran Mehr as Political Affairs Commissioner.

The ASU president is a crucial position as they serve as Chair of the Executive Council and the liaison between the administration and students. Additionally the president attends regional meetings.

"We need a chair, we need a president, it is crucial for the ASU and students," said Student Engagement Coordinator, Raquel Sanchez. "Some students have approached us with interest in running for these positions."

The ASU is planning on holding special elections as early as possible in the fall semester to fill the remaining positions. Using the conventional physical format.

The ballot also included a measure to amend the ASU constitution, allowing the 2017-2018 officers to receive monetary compensation for taking office. The measure passed with 113 votes in favor. the proposed amounts were $200 per month for president and $150 for the remaining officials. Also in the ballot, there was an option to allow ASU executive council to eliminate and or create ASU positions, passing with 124 votes.

This election process allowed students to vote online for the first time in Valley's history from April 18 until May 3, using the VoteNet system. This was made possible by the Los Angeles Community College District at no cost for all participating schools, all but 2 LACCD colleges used the format for this year's elections.

Valley's elections had a total of 183 voters out of 18207 possible voters, only 10% of valley students.

ASU encourages students to run for unfilled positions and interested students should visit the ASU office or website @ www.lavc.edu/asu for more information.

Arbor Day raises awareness of environ

Valley college campus pulls out all the stops in celebrating Arbor Day with several events on campus.

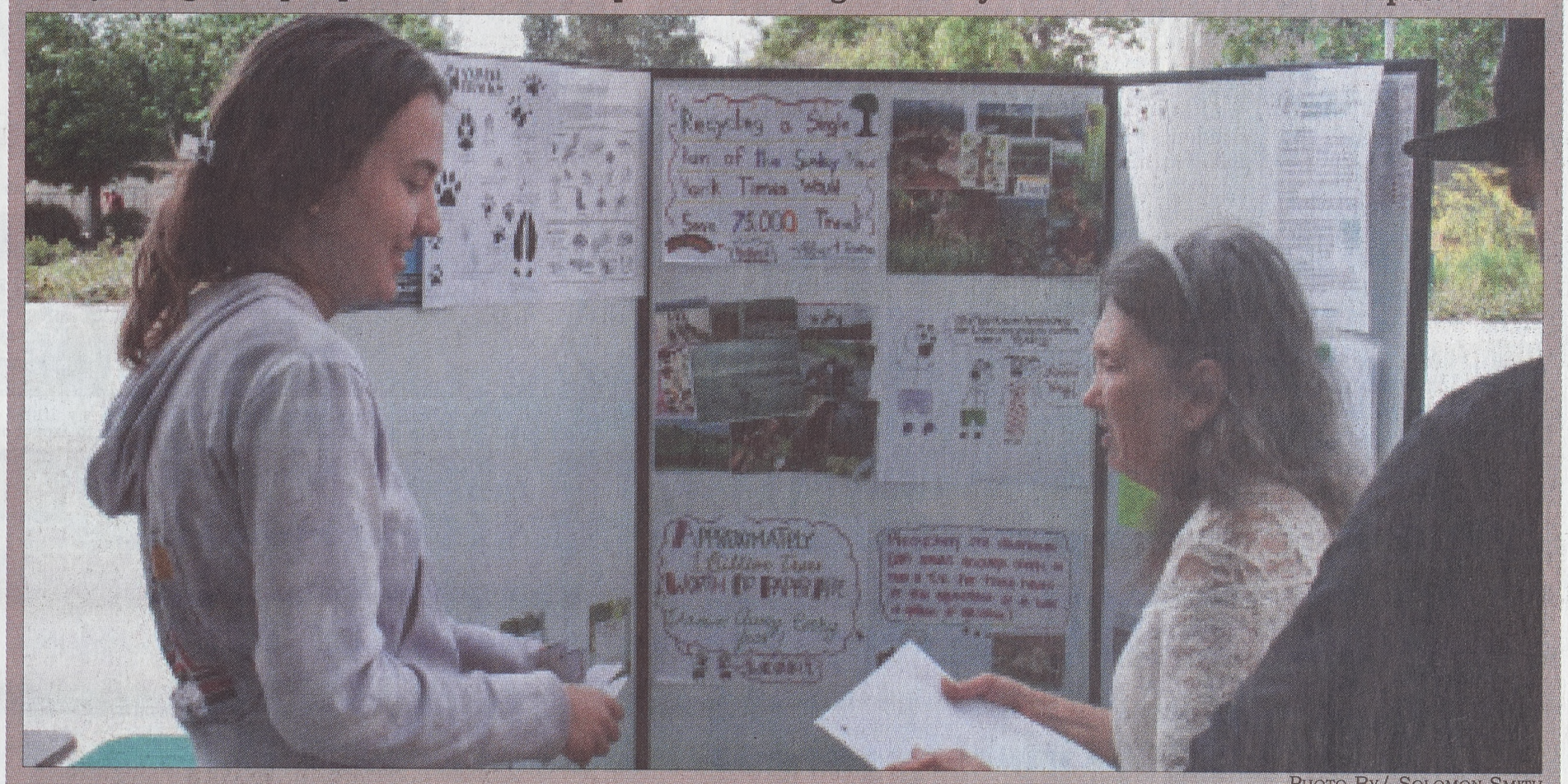


PHOTO BY/ SOLOMON SMITH

LEARNING ABOUT NATURE- Professor Discusses the challenges and benefits of nature with a student at an Arbor Day display, during a campus wide celebration of the holiday .

BY JESSICA PEREZ
STAFF WRITERS

On April 27th at 9am-1pm Valley College scheduled the Arbor Day celebration in the Student Union Plaza, and featured music and free food as well as an award ceremony, writing contest, raffle, and tree planting.

One poetry winner, Leila Zadeh won for her poem which was written in French---her native language is Farsi. She intends to attend CSUN next fall. The award recipient was Jack Epling, Gardening Supervisor for Valley, who recieved the Sustainability Committees award from Valley President, Erika Endrijonas. Valley College has been celebrating Arbor Day since it was honored with the annual Tree Campus USA award given by the Arbor Day Foundation for its commitment and dedication to effective urban forest management. This is the sixth consecutive year the college has been recognized and out of the 9 LACCD community colleges it's the first to be named a Tree Campus USA in 2011.

National Arbor Day is an annual observance that celebrates the role of trees in our lives and promotes tree planting and care; which is now celebrated on the last Friday in April. The idea originated in Nebraska City, by the founder J. Sterling Morton who was a lover of nature and was among the pioneers of the Nebraska territory in 1854.

see *Arbor Day* p.2

PHOTO BY COURTESY OF VALLEY GRADUATION OFFICE

GRADUATION- Valley students celebrate graduating.

Valley celebrates graduating class

Graduates will be recognized and celebrated in several ways as the semester draws to a close.

BY JESSICA PEREZ
STAFF WRITER

Valley college will publicly recognize students transferring to four-year universities by posting the announcement on the electronic marquees at the stadium field, so students can take photos showing their name in lights on graduation day.

For this 2017 graduation, a student will be chosen to share a unique story about their background, college experience, or the struggles that they overcame to graduate from Valley College and it will be featured in The Los Angeles Times and Daily News. These newspapers are interested in a passionate story. If you are a student with unique circumstances, graduating with a spouse, sibling, or children, or you have overcome huge personal obstacles to be able to graduate they will like to hear from you before the deadline May 19th at boruckjf@lavc.edu with a brief summary.

This Fall, many Monarchs will be transferring to their dream institutions to pursue the next step in their education; it's an exciting time not only for the students but for their family and

see *Grads* p. 2

Veterans Club shows meaning of Memorial Day

Veterans on campus plan to honor those who have fallen in combat.

BY LONNIE DOMINGUEZ
STAFF WRITER

The Veterans Club plans to set up a month long display on campus to honor fellow service members who did not return home and emphasize the true meaning of Memorial Day.

"Veterans Day and Memorial Day get confused together," said Andres Elzarraraz, member of the Veterans Club at Valley College, "we want to distinguish between the two."

Elzarraraz explains that veterans are often thanked on Memorial Day but the meaning of the holiday is to honor military members who lost their lives overseas, and that is one of the reasons the club wants to present the display.

The club plans to set up a table near the cafeteria the week before Memorial Day and will center on those killed and went missing in action, as well as prisoners of war.

Memorial Day was traditionally held on May 30, however in 1971, congress changed it to coincide with the last Monday of the month.

The Veterans of

see *Veterans* p.2

PHOTO BY/ U.S. MARINES CORPS

ESCAPE- The Veteran's Club display commemorating fallen U.S. soldiers.

'Arbor Day'

Morton was a journalist and quickly became the editor of Nebraska's first newspaper where he spread agricultural information and his enthusiasm for trees. His fellow pioneers were in desperate need of trees for fuel, building materials, and shade. Nebraska was once a treeless plain and its lack of trees there led to the founding of Arbor Day in the 1800s.

In 1872, the State Board of Agriculture accepted a resolution by Morton to set aside one day to plant trees, both forest and fruit. The board declared April 10 Arbor Day and offered prizes to the counties and individuals that properly planted the largest number of trees on that day. More than one million trees were planted in Nebraska on the first Arbor Day.

Valleys college's urban forest comprises of more than 1,600 trees established by early faculty members of the college's Biology department. Students are involved in the Sustainability, Urban Forest, and Eco Advocates committees and show support for wildlife and the campus environment. The Chairman of the Sustainability committee Virginia Requa expresses her concerns on Earth's endangerment; and plans to spread awareness.

"Honestly we're in dire straits and it's hard to wrap your head around the fact that 300 species die a day and forest all over the world are being taken down," says Requa. ASU hopes to raise awareness about the environment and help people make better choices in their everyday lives, by informing people about how to reduce their carbon footprint by planting, and maintaining trees.

"Being connected with nature has an effect on all living beings and it provides so much for us, the least we can do is try and nurture it," said Meyrav Revivo, an ASU student.

PHOTO BY/ SOLOMON SMITH

PEP TALK- Coaches gives their team a heads up on what to expect on the upcoming competition in D.C.

FLCKR/ PUBLIC DOMAIN

HOUSELESS- Two people experiencing homelessness.

Housing insecurity real for many

For many Los Angeles city residents housing insecurity is a real day-to-day concern.

BY KAYLA HEWITT
STAFF WRITER

Los Angeles is a city where many people are experiencing homelessness with even more people live on the verge of losing their housing.

Many residents of Los Angeles face housing insecurity. Los Angeles is a city with more people than homes. While the population of Los Angeles has boomed over the last few decades, housing in the city has remained relatively stagnant. According to the LA Times, from 2010 to 2015, L.A. added 157,000 new job and 236,318 new residents, but only 40,014 units, or one new home for every 5.9 residents. This has a created a fierce, and expensive, housing market.

Every day in Los Angeles, we walk past people experiencing homelessness. People all over Los Angeles experience food and housing insecurity every day. According to the LA Times, a new survey by UCLA's Luskin House of Public Affairs showed that when asked if families in Los Angeles had worried about losing their homes and becoming homeless as a result, 54% of respondents making less than $30,000 and 30% of those making $60,000 to $90,000 said they had. Across all income groups, about a third of those surveyed said they had worried about losing their homes.

The number of people making $30,000 per year or less is no small number. According to the LA Times, at least 20 of Los Angeles' 272 neighborhoods have a median income of under $30,000. And according to the 2000 census, the population of those 20 neighborhoods would be approximately 436,470, a number that has undoubtedly grown since then.

How close are most of us to homelessness? According to a study done by UCLA's Luskin School of Public Affairs, Los Angeles is the most unaffordable rental market in the country. While New York and San Fransisco have similar median rents, Los Angeles has a lower median income than both, meaning more of L.A.'s resident's incomes go towards rent that in the other most expensive renting cities in the country.

L.A. has a large population of unsheltered people that is growing every day. According to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, the majority of the population of unsheltered people in L.A. are Los Angeles residents.

While many people think experiencing homeless is unthinkable, for a large portion of people in L.A., it is a distinct possibility.

'Grads'

friends.

Valley College will hold the 68th Commencement Ceremony on June 6 at 9 a.m. in the Monarch Stadium to celebrate all who will be receiving an associate of arts degree, associate of science degree, or a CTE certificate during the 2016-2017 academic year.

This is the fifth year the college has highlighted the success of its students who are continuing their educational journey on the marquees. Transfer student's names will be displayed in groups of 10, until June 6, and students are encouraged to take photos in front of their name with their cap and gown.

Students who want to share the school they will be attending should send an email including the student's name, the school they will be transferring to, and student ID to news@lavc.edu by Friday May 26th.

In addition to the visual shout out, Valley College will be treating all transferees to the annual TAP/ Transfer Recognition Luncheon honoring transfer students who are admitted to four-year universities, which will be held at the Monarch Hall Thursday May 25th. It will also provide lunch for up to two guest, a raffle, entertainment and more; students must RSVP by Friday May 19th.

'Veterans'

Foreign Wars (VFW), a national organization representing combat veterans, has expressed disapproval of moving the holiday simply to create a three day weekend.

Elzarraraz agrees with the VFW's sentiments that the holiday is losing its meaning and should be moved back to May 30.

"The day is becoming commercialized and we want it to mean more than just the start of summer or national barbeque day," Elzarraraz said.

The club also plans to accept donations towards Gold Star Mothers of America, an organization representing families of those killed in combat.

The table will be set up until May 31st with donations welcomed from all students and those

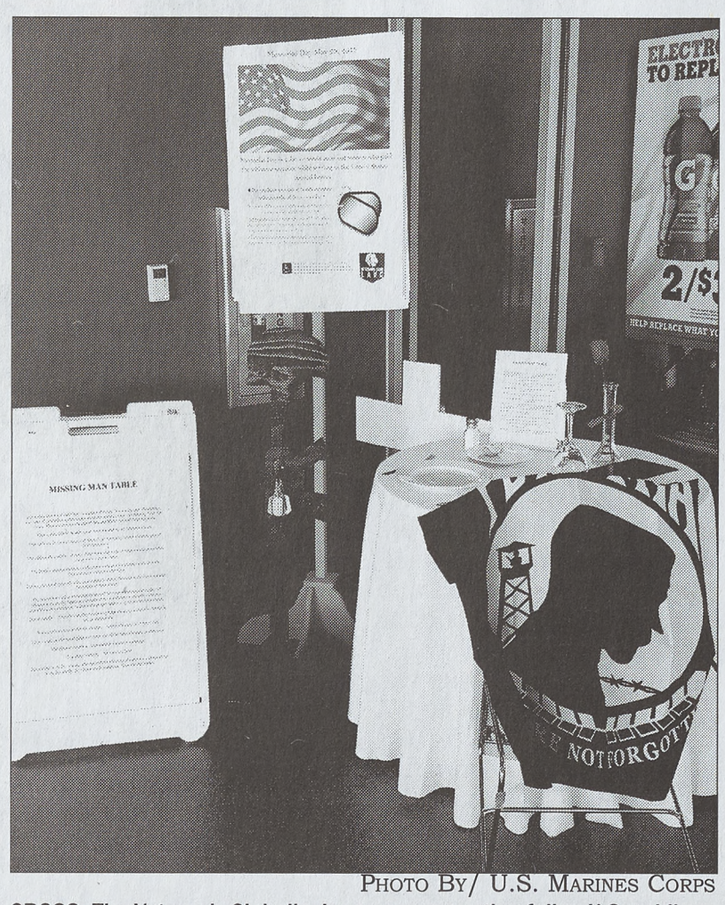


PHOTO BY/ U.S. MARINES CORPS

CROSS- The Veteran's Club display commemorating fallen U.S. soldiers.

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OPINION

The Republican healthcare proposal is a hot mess

The Republican controlled House of Representatives made thier first step toward repealing the Affordable Healthcare Act but face strong opposition.

OPINION BY
SOLOMON SMITH
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The New Republican healthcare bill is an exercise in cruelty.

The failure of the Republican healthcare bill the first time around was a monumental embarrassment for the Republican Party and a win for the American citizen. Many of the suggestions in the bill not only benefitted no one, but were to the detriment of the of the poor and working class Americans who voted for Trump.

The Affordable Health Care Act has its problems. Many of those under the plan new plan saw their rates rise, even though then President Barack Obama promised that they would not change and that they would be able to keep their doctors. The implementation of the program was also an embarrassment for Obama's presidency, rife with false starts, bad websites, and enrollment issues, all reported on by the Washington Post.

Considering all of this there is still the fact that ACA, or "Obamacare", managed to insure millions of Americans who otherwise would have been unprotected. The very fact that such a powerful nation had no universal coverage programs was an embarrassment that the ACA addressed, albeit, not perfectly.

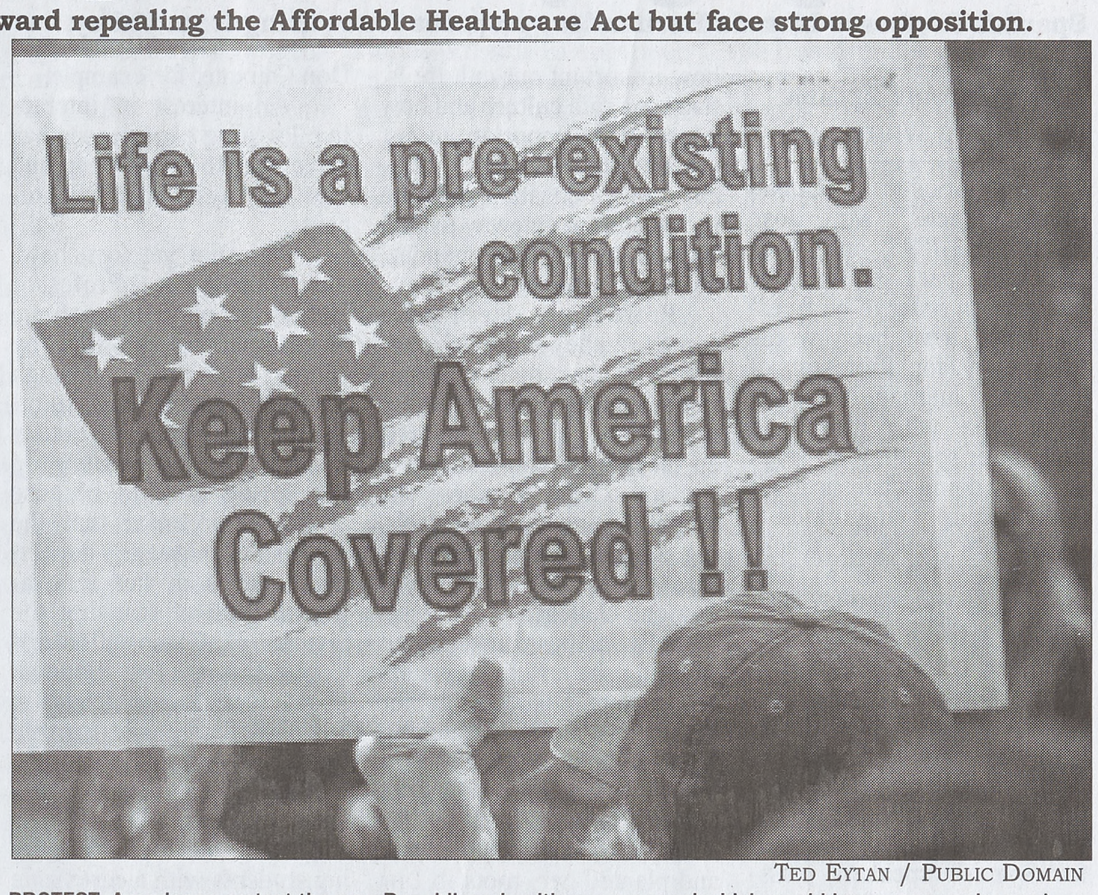
The republicans railed against the program for the entirety of its life without any real viable plans for replacement. Now the Republicans control both houses and the office of the President, and the best their eight-year rant can produce is a program, that throws those with preexisting conditions to the wolves, reduce coverage for our most vulnerable citizens and continues the hard-right's tradition of throwing the "poors" under the bus.

Unfortunately, this last effort, which passed through the House of Representatives, is in keeping with the tradition of cruelty. It proposes to create a pool in which to drown those with preexisting conditions with debt. The suggested amount to offset the inevitable rise in costs for those wading into that pool is a pittance but even with that, the option to allow states to opt out of the mandatory protections setup by the ACA makes it moot.

The repercussions have been bad for Republicans representatives who have been ducking their constituents over the issue. Rep. Elise Stefanik, 32, from New York, was on a PBS television station facing down angry voters over her lat minute decision to vote yes on the Repub bill.

The bill is now in the process of being reviewed and altered for the senate, although Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnel's choice of reviewers leaves much to be desired. A board of 12 republican men; mostly middle-aged, wealthy white men, are going to put together a more congenial bill representing America.

In short, the ACA which covered millions of Americans is being usurped by right-wing cruelty but the American voters are not having it.



TED EYTAN / PUBLIC DOMAIN

PROTEST- Americans protest the new Republican healthcare proposal which would leave many uninsured.

Comey firing an issue

BY KAYLA HEWITT
STAFF WRITER

Comey's firing was so bizarre it seemed unreal, as he was in Los Angeles at the time when Trump sent his termination letter to the F.B.I. Headquarters. Comey apparently found out when the news on the television behind him reported that he had been fired. Even more odd is that no one at the White House but Trump and God himself seems to know why Comey was fired, as the President, Vice-President, and White House Press Secretary all have different stories.

In a hurried, late-night interview with the Washington Post, White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer stammered and stuttered 'I don't know' and seemed keen on pushing the blame for this incident onto the Justice Department, claiming they led the probe into Comey's conduct and President Trump decided to go along with their decision. Vice President Mike Pence also repeated what Spicer said, emphasizing that the decision to fire Comey was based on a report written by Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein. However, President Trump claimed in an interview with NBC that he was already considering sacking Comey before the report:

"[Rosenstein] made a recommendation," said Trump. "But regardless of the recommendation, I was going to fire Comey."

What made the first story so unbelievable was that this would have been the first time in Trump's presidency that he's decided to listen to the Justice Department. The fact that none of our elected officials have a consistent answer for the President firing someone who was investigating him is disconcerting. Trump praised Director Comey for re-opening the investigation into Hillary Clinton's emails during the election, but now that the eye of the F.B.I. is on the President, suddenly that same investigation is under fire.

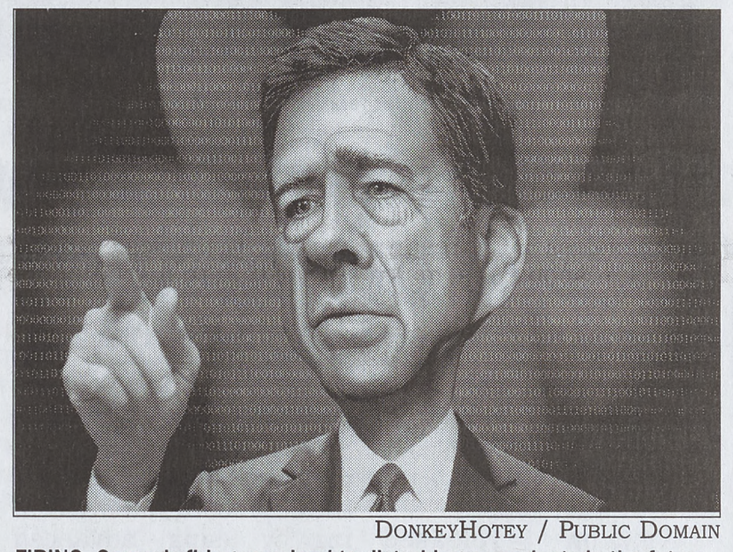
This incident evokes the specter of the Saturday Night Massacre, when Richard Nixon issued orders to fire the Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox in charge of investigating Watergate, causing the Attorney General Elliot Richardson and Deputy Attorney General William Ruckelshaus to resign in protest. Not since then have we seen the abrupt firing of an investigative authority by a President- and, like Nixon, Trump first used the Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein as a shield by claiming that he only fired Comey on Rosenstein's recommendation, before claiming that he would have fired him anyway.

F.B.I. directors serve ten-year terms, which allows them to operate without feeling beholden to any one administration. Comey was appointed in 2013, and at the time of his dismissal had only served four of his ten years as director. Trump is only the second U.S. president to fire the F.B.I. director, the first being Clinton. President Clinton fired his F.B.I. director, William Sessions, after a year-long investigation revealing money laundering and fraud while in office. Trump fired Comey after receiving one report from the Deputy Attorney General.

According to CNN, the F.B.I. was about to start issuing subpoenas in the Russia case. Comey's firing seemed to be a message, an act of political bullying. As we've seen throughout the presidency, Trump is not afraid to bend the law to get his will, and firing Comey sends the message 'oppose me, and I will fire you.' Now we wait to see the next step, both with the Director of the F.B.I. and the Russian investigation.

The confusion in the White House is just as alarming as Comey's abrupt firing. The White House Press Secretary, the Vice President, and the President all released contradicting statements. This is either a result of a problem with communication between the President and his staff, or a clumsy attempt at a cover up.

If so, Trump did make the fatal mistake that Nixon did- attempting to cover up anything you've done only makes you look guiltier.



DONKEYHOTEY / PUBLIC DOMAIN

FIRING- Comey's firing may lead to disturbing precedents in the future.

"13 Reasons Why" debuts to very mixed reviews

A Netflix series targets suicide prevention but some consider it dangerous.

OPINION BY
HERBERT ORELLANA

Netflix's new original production "13 Reasons Why" debuted last month to mixed reviews, with many praising the show for sparking awareness and conversation on issues like bullying, rape and suicide, while others believe the show might trigger painful memories for victims.

The show explains the 13 reasons why teenager Hanna Baker chose to commit suicide. Baker, played by Katherine Langford, faces cyber bullying, slut shaming, rape, depression and other issues while in school. The show presents each painful event as a step closer to her suicide, while flashing back to how her peers could have done more to prevent it.

In the past 50 years, suicide rates for those age 15-24 increased by 200 percent, according to a study conducted by the American College Health Association. Worse, 12 people, ages 15-24, will commit suicide today and there are approximately 1,100 suicides at schools per year. Suicide is the second leading cause of death for people ages 15-24.

"We want to start a conversation on these issues, and more importantly show viewers that there is help out there," says executive producer Selena Gomez. "Suicide should never, ever be an option."

While the series' main objective is to share a message of prevention, there are those who believe that the show exposes viewers to risky content and may lead to a distressing reaction by some viewers particularly younger members of the audience.

"Research clearly indicates that the very real impact and risk to harmful suicide exposure leading to increased risk and possible suicide contagion," says Kristen Douglas, National Manager of Headspace School Support. "There is a responsibility for broadcasters to know what they are showing and the impact that certain content can have on an audience."

Headspace School Support is a national program that supports school communities in the aftermath of a suicide. They have received a growing number of calls directly related to the show.

In the show's defense, there is a graphic content warning displayed before every episode and, additionally, there is an open forum at the end of the series in which the show's creators explain that their intent is to open conversation on the issue and motivate people to get help.

"Reach out, even if you can't tell anybody, call a hotline, text a hotline, talking about it will make you feel better," says Langford (Hannah), "It will get better."

There is nothing wrong with needing help, if you are in a difficult situation, you can visit suicidepreventionlifeline.org to speak with someone anonymously via chat, phone or email.

/ PUBLIC DOMAIN

NETFLIX- Netflix original show, "13 Reasons Why" has started a mixed dialogue on suicide.

Leaving legacy of education

Spanish Professor Librada Hernandez, prepares for retiring from Valley.

BY BRITTANY ZELADA
STAFF WRITER

The "Apostle of Cuban Independence," Mr. Jose Marti (1853-1895) once said, "Ser culto para ser libre; be educated in order to be free."

Those have been words to live by for Professor of Foreign Language Librada Hernandez who retires in June, after spending 20 years at Valley doing what she loves to do; inspire young minds.

Twenty years of teaching passed bye in a flash for Professor Hernández, who will be retiring from Valley after the end of the spring semester.

Hernández has really made an effort to incorporate a rich experience in the art and culture in the advanced language arts class for Spanish speakers classes that she currently teaches. Her main goal is for students to get a deep understanding on how rich spanish culture can be. Students taking her classes have had the opportunity to be made aware of their culture. The professor considers herself to have been successful if they've embrace their roots and have not forgotten from whence they came. "I want them to realize how important our culture is, that it's a rich culture and how education is important to our community in tough political times, education must be the important gateway to deal with this", said Hernández, gesturing around.

Professor Hernandez came to Valley in 1997, bringing with her diverse experiences in teaching at other institutions. Hernandez started teaching while she was a student at UCLA, where she taught Spanish as a teaching assistant. After graduating, she began teaching at Pomona College.

Always passionate about teaching she tested the waters at various institutions for higher education, stretching from Pomona all the way to the Furman University in South Carolina. Luckily for Valley, she finally came back and planted her roots in Los Angeles.

She started her college career at the Los Angeles City College, and so she felt comfortable teaching students there very much like herself— first generation college students.

Hernandez credits her decision to go to college to her high-school Spanish teacher who touched on various Spanish literature like Don Quixote, for example.

An interest in interactive learning experiences has driven her to create deep and creative ways of teaching students.

All is not yet lost, however, because Professor Hernandez plans to continue to be involved at Valley by helping students get through Spanish classes with tutoring. She also plans to return to teaching at Valley in the Spring of 2018 because of the importance that the Spanish Language department places in her innovative method of teaching the Spanish 37, Composition and Conversation for Spanish Speakers class, which is a key class for transferring to a UC in that discipline.

The class is a hybrid, part online and part lecture, it is important due to it providing students with a certificate that will help them get a job. Targeted at first-generation native Spanish-speaking college students it will help them work towards their goals.

Ms. Librada Hernandez, catedrática believes that education can bring students and the Hispanic community freedom in this dawn of difficult times, but she warns to never be ashamed of, from where one came.

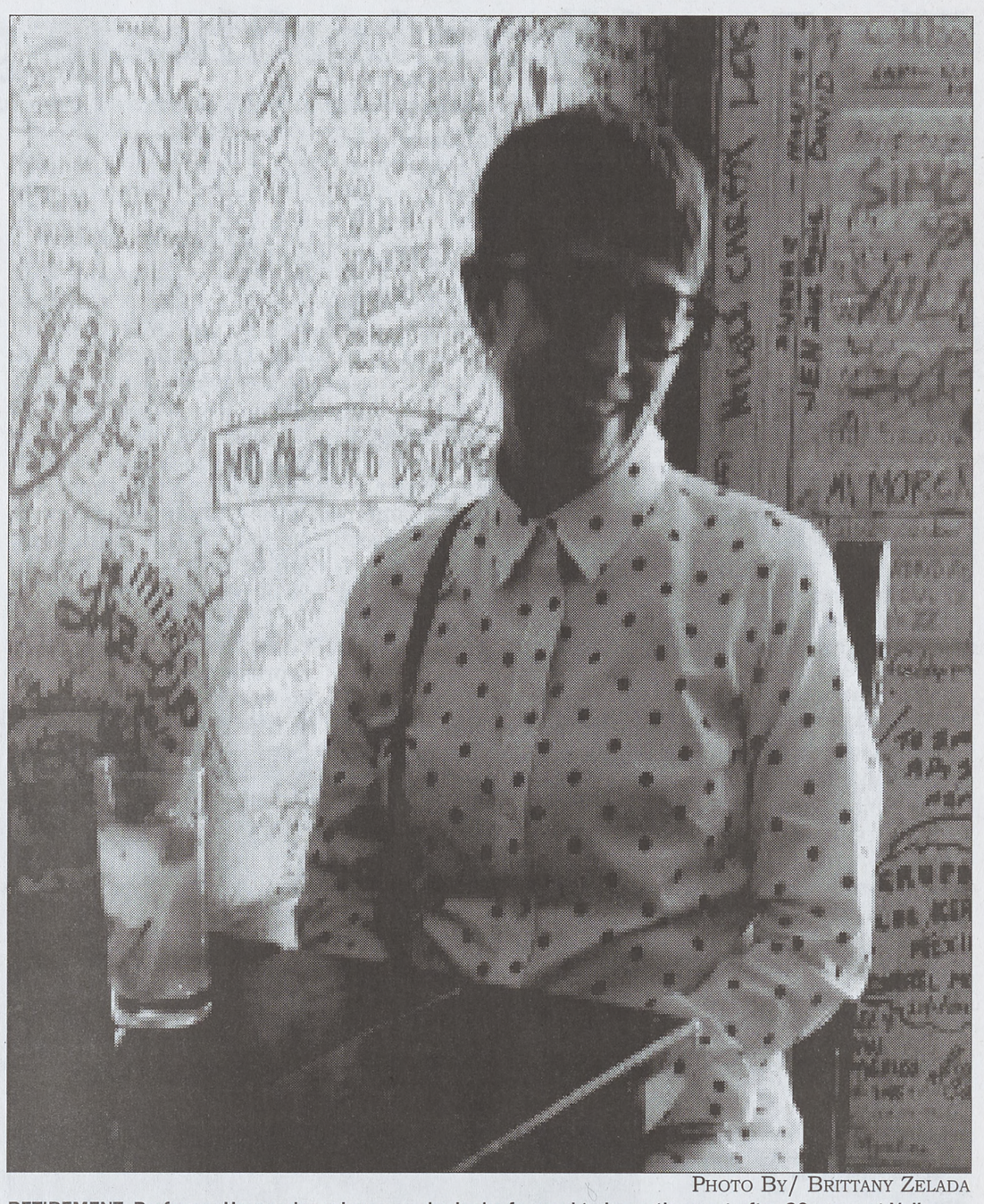


PHOTO BY/ BRITTANY ZELADA

RETIREMENT- Professor Hernandez relaxes as she looks forward to her retirement after 20 years at Valley.

A sweet treat for Valley

BY ANNA RAMOS
STAFF WRITER

Ice cream social honors teachers and staff for their contributions.

Five years or thirty years, from a professor to a counselor, to an office secretary, to a janitor, Valley College recognizes all the hard work they have put out throughout the years.

On May 10th 2017, President of Valley College Erika Endrijonas, hosted the annual Ice Cream Social with the goal of recognizing and thanking the employees for their great work, eating ice cream and winning awards which featured the Employee Service Recognition Awards, Above and Beyond Awards and Apple Awards.

"From 30 nominees, we have six awards that will be given," says Erika Endrijonas, president of Valley College. "But the main idea of the Ice Cream Social is to recognize the hard work that all the people do in the campus, and what a better way of doing it than having fun eating ice cream."

During the Ice Cream Social, new employees were welcomed to the campus. Other workers with five, ten, and up to thirty years of work, as well as retirees were recognized with the Employee Service Award by handing them certificates.

"It's an amazing opportunity to thank people who have been here for five, ten, twenty, twenty- five, and thirty years working for this college." Says Endrijonas. "They have been part of Valley College for a long time and they have made good changes with their work."

Some professors had the opportunity to be chosen and recognized by their students for being great educators with the Apple Awards, which featured an actual apple shaped metal award.

The Above and Beyond awards which were classified in six categories: Creativity and Innovation for Student Success, Community Involvement and Monarch Pride, Just Do It!, Outstanding Service and Mentoring to Student, and last but not least, Fulfilling the College's Mission Towards Student Success.

"The award winners get a certificate, a goodie bag, and I take them out to breakfast." Says Endrijonas.

For the workers invited to the Ice Cream Social, these types of events are great to bring everybody together and talk about their achievements throughout the school year. To award winners, these types of recognitions are a big honor.

Hasmik Arakelyan, psychology and business law professor was one of the luckiest persons at the Ice Cream Social to win two awards, one for the Apple Awards and another one for the Above and Beyond Awards. She was glad that all her hard work and support towards student is being appreciated and it's actually helping them.

"This is a two-ways street, students learn and get inspired by us just as how we learn and get inspired by them," says Arakelyan. "Students make us go Above and Beyond on what we do."

"What makes a college a college are the people who work here," says Endrijonas. "It's about the faculty who teaches and councils students, and it's also about the staff that assist them, and as the president of Valley Colle I'm thankful for that."

PHOTO BY /ANNA RAMOS

ICECREAM- Staff, faculty and instructors are rewarded and recognized.

Echo helps students keep an eye on fashion trends

Amazon introduces a new style device that helps choose your outfits.

BY AKI TASHIRO
STAFF WRITER

Amazon released Wednesday Echo Look, a new digital device which assists users in deciding on the best outfits everyday.

Echo Look is a new digital device created by Amazon which comes with a depth-sensing camera and four white built-in LED lights for improving the quality of pictures. It is voice activated and able to take full-length photos with background blur and short videos. Users can see their outfits from every angle in the photos and video, as well as share them on a new service called Style Check to get a second opinion on their outfits of the day. Style Check itself has features to help users choose the best coordinated clothing by using "advanced machine learning algorithms" and advice from fashion experts. Echo Look also has Alexa, a voice service developed by Amazon, so users can ask it to get them traffic info, weather updates, play music, read news and more, like the original Echo speakers do.

"Fashion is often an expression of human emotion, which could be difficult for a computer to judge.", said Selena Larson, CNN tech reporter. "But the computer's fashion choices may appeal to the lazy 20-something in us all, who doesn't want to make a decision about what to wear to work," Larson said.

Users can submit two photos to compare the outfits on the Style Check app, and it will give them opinions based on fit, color, styling and current trends. The users' feedback and input from fashion specialists will keep the decision up to date. However, Amazon did not reveal the detail of the process behind the technology, such as who the fashion specialists are. Users can also create a personal lookbook on the Echo Look app which is available on iOS or Android.

Echo Look starts at $199 by invitation only. Amazon is now accepting invitation requests on the product page.

/ PUBLIC DOMAIN

SENATE FLOOR- Floor of the California State Assembly where members proposed to cover costs of tuition.

Homeless student living on campus finds her footing

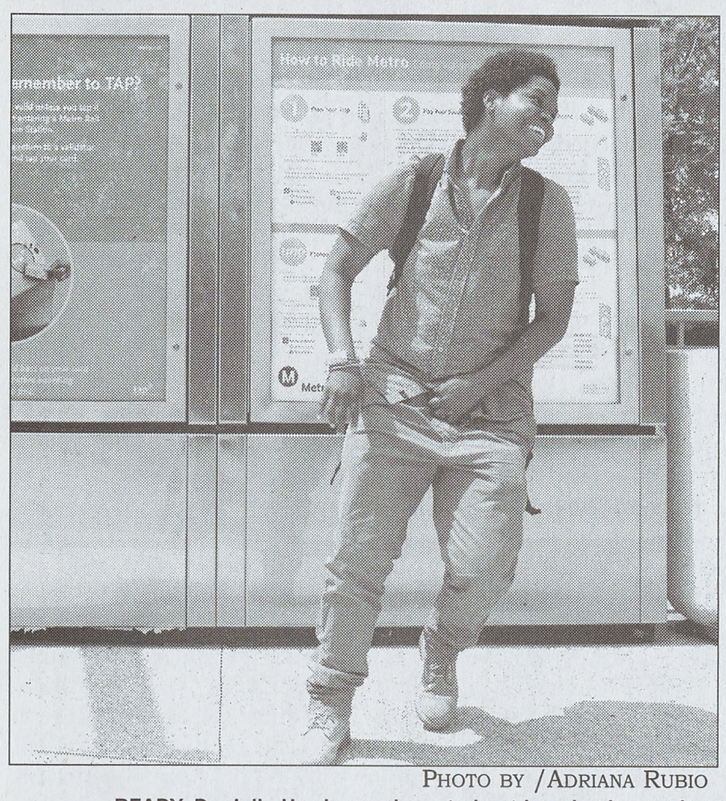


PHOTO BY /ADRIANA RUBIO

READY- Danielle Harris speaks out about housing insecurity.

BY JESSICA PEREZ
STAFF WRITER

25-year-old, Valley College student, Danielle Harris has spent part of her time on campus sleeping in hallways, bathrooms, and any other place she could find to rest.

So, when a maintenance worker noticed that she didn't have a place to go once the school closed, he lent a hand.

Struggling to get her next meal he provided her with food, when it began to get scarce. Lonesome and constantly on the move she kept a knife/weapon on her at all times for security and self-defense.

"I kept my stuff packed away under one of the bungalows and one night I received a note from this cat lady that roams the campus at night," Harris said. "She told me that my crap didn't belong there, she took my stuff and threw them away; I was terrified."

For the past year, up to last semester, Harris has been living the grim reality that thousands of students experiencing homelessness across the country face. Even though she's been thrown into personal and financial hardships after leaving her family's home, she carries herself with charisma, humor, and an aura that radiates positivity.

Harris a native of (city) Arkansas made her first move in 2015 to Florida, following years of disagreements about her tomboy persona which caused insecurity to be herself around her family who constantly pressured her to embrace her feminine side.

"I wouldn't say they don't support me," Harris said. "They're my parents and are always going to be there for me regardless, but they don't understand my situation, so they're not sure how to deal with it."

After three months of living out of her truck in Miami, she thought of moving to New York but preferred to be spoiled by the California weather and to create a more stable life. Five months later she moved to Venice Beach and later found her way to the San Fernando Valley.

In hopes of attending the LA Film school to study music, she received a rude awakening when she discovered $36,000 was needed up front. As a result, she began drifting from one job to another, working as a security guard and doing housework at hostels to maintain a night's sleep.

Her life before, was full of danger and at such a helpless time in her life, she felt drained. But the problems seemed to follow, as her truck was taken away by authorities after being caught without a license.

Running out of options she stayed at an uncle's home but complications arose when he disagreed with her plans; the nature of the disagreement was unclear.

"I couldn't ask anyone for help because I felt embarrassed and my pride stopped me from asking my parents, so I toughed it out," said Harris.

Now living in a shelter, she continues her educational pursuit in engineering. She embodies her creative side by taking sculpture courses, and enjoys the tactile experience of art. Making the most of her situation she feels the need to find herself and start living life on her own terms, in a journey driven by a positive mindset of a new day.

From word of mouth, Harris was introduced to the Helping Hands Foundation who have been providing college students that are experiencing homelessness get settled in shelters while they transition into their own place.

The hospitality by Valley College has provided Harris with the essentials like breakfast, clothing, transportation, shower, and a community that she can rely on to motivate her to continue with her education. From February until now, they have helped her get financial aid and covered her tuition costs; six months of her living on campus.

Harris has received resources like The Village Family Services Transition Age Youth (TAY), is a program that is meant to empower homeless youth aged 14-25 in the Los Angeles County; to get jobs, counseling, peer groups, life skill training, and housing that will help build herself to have a stable living. The program has helped her transition into the shelter that she is currently living at.

The LAVC student is pursuing her passion of opening her own business, as she's always embodied her creative side, and enjoys the tactile experience of art. She can do just about anything, from embroidery, jewelry, designing t-shirts, and cook. Currently she is trying to start her own business online accepting orders on her email; daharris0864@gmail.com, in making bracelets and shirts in hopes that her talents will become recognized by the public eye.

In a journey of building herself, she is getting opportunities that are going to help her towards her goals. In the Summer, she will be working at LAVC for the summer program doing various tasks. She hopes to graduate from LAVC getting her AA degree in Engineering and transfer to the UCLA Engineering program to

Nintendo releases an old favorite on its new flagship console

Nintendo follows its tried-and-true method of updating and releasing one of its most popular racers with new modes making far a great game.

BY OLIVER ASTON
STAFF WRITER

With the launch of the Nintendo Switch in the rearview the big N's flagship racer returns.

Hot off the turnpike Mario Kart 8 Deluxe is here to flesh out the lineup on the fledging console but, as a repackaging of the Wii U outing does Deluxe do enough to warrant a second lap?

Deluxe is first and foremost the same game as it was on the Wii U, with all of the original 32 tracks, as well as the downloadable content and characters accounted for. The game was already a blast to play on Nintendo's last system and remains so on the Switch, however, its been spruced up a little bit this time around with a higher resolution and more fine details as far as additional content is concerned. Deluxe also adds new characters to the mix such as fan favorites, Dry Bones and Bowser Jr., who were perplexingly excluded from the last outing, as well as the titular Squid Kids from Splatoon. There have also been several smaller gameplay tweaks made to the game in the leap from the Wii U, such as a quick 180 turn, additional level of boost, and the ability to pick up 2 items at once.

If there was one common complaint levied at Mario Kart 8's original release it was the game's "battle mode." Prior to Mario Kart 8, every title since the 1992 original had dedicated arenas for throwing multitudes of items at your (likely screaming) friends but that all changed in 2014 with 8 when Nintendo reused the race courses for this classic mode and understandably players were a little peeved, with many calling the mode unplayable in the previous release. Luckily, in Deluxe 8 Nintendo has rectified the issue and delivered not only 8 new areas just for the traditional balloon battle mode but also 4 additional modes of play which include; a King of the Hill style mode Shine Thief, the collectathon that is Coin Rush, Cops and Robbers in the form of Renegade Roundup, and the all-out mayhem of Bob-omb Blast.

Multiplayer has always been a strongpoint of the series but with Deluxe 8 on the Switch its better than ever, in addition to offering 4 player split screen and online multiplayer, up to 8 Switch systems can be hooked up for on the go play. This is great for when you're in between classes or at lunch since you can just hand off one of the Switch JoyCons and you're ready to rumble in any mode. This is really where the value lies in Deluxe. On the Switch the series has become quite versatile and with so many modes of play expect to have the cartridge in your Switch for a long time yet.

While Deluxe is fundamentally the same game as on the Wii U, smart additions and the Switch's portability bolster an already great title.

Without a doubt this is the game to own if you're picking up the Switch and gets a shining recommendation.

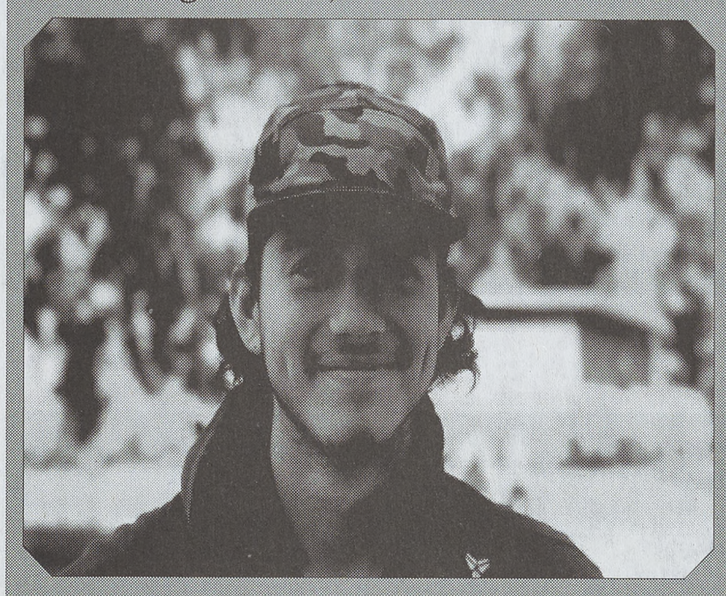
PHOTO BY NINTENDO

RACING- An old classic is back with updates and improved game modes adding up to a fun game.

VALLEY VIEW

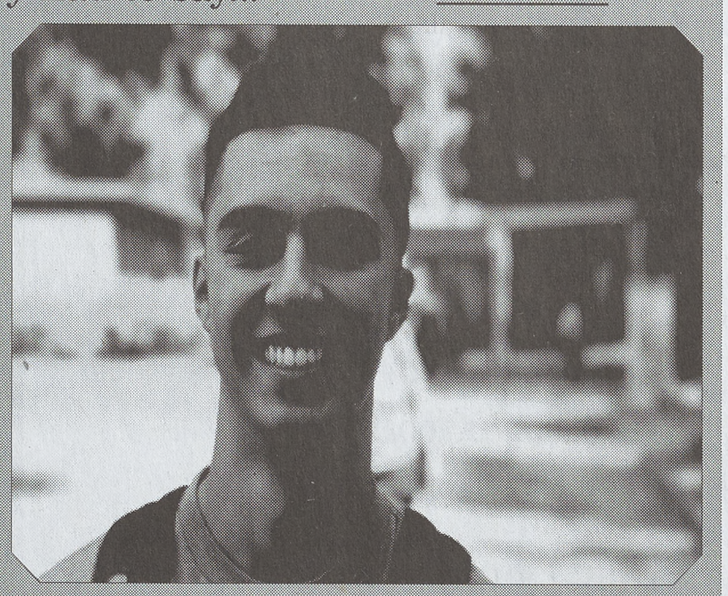
We asked students what they thought about the possibility of President Trump raising federal taxes on gasoline, which has not been done in almost 24 years. This is what they had to say...

BY ALIYAH ALLEN
STAFF WRITER



"Trump is going to find a better way to benefit the rich not the roads or the city. "
- Sophomore Nathan Dominguez

"Trump is going to find a better way to benefit the rich not the roads or the city. "
- Sophomore Mark Rodriguez

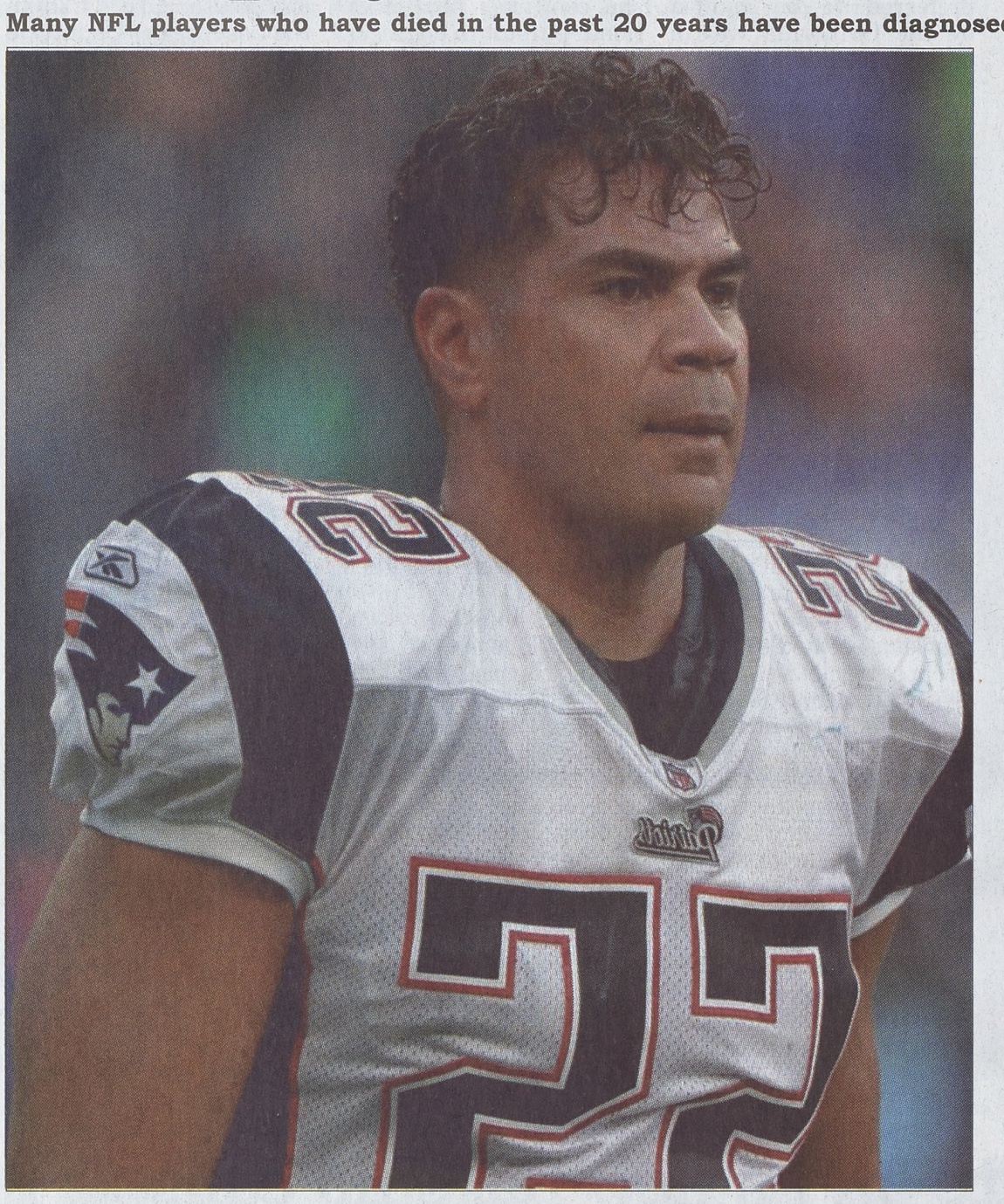


"Always check prices before purchasing."
- Olman Chavez

SPORTS

NFL players suffer from deadly disease

Many NFL players who have died in the past 20 years have been diagnosed with Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy.



CAROLINA QUARTERBACK- Kam Newton, may have to curb his touchdown celebrations in the coming season

BY EMMANUEL CORDOVA
STAFF WRITER

Over the past decades, many football players have suffered from a horrific disease called Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy; it continues to spread as research shows that 87 out of 91 NFL players tested positive for CTE in 2015.

CTE was discovered by Dr. Bennet Omalu, and according to the New York Times, 12 NFL stars who passed away all suffered some sort of CTE. It is a disease that affects the brain and is found in athletes, military veterans, and others with a history of repetitive brain trauma. Brain trauma can cause the growth of a protein called tau that slowly kills brain cells. Possible symptoms include memory loss, confusion, impaired judgement, paranoia, impulse control problems, aggression, and dementia. These symptoms can start to show months, years or later in a person's lifetime but can only be diagnosed after death by brain-tissue analysis.

Mike Webster, who played center for the Pittsburgh Steelers for 16 seasons, past away in 2002 at 50 due to a heart attack. He was one of the first players, along with his former teammate Terry Long, to be diagnosed with CTE by Omalu. This autopsy is what sparked the ongoing conversation about players' safety and concussion protocols.

Tyler Sash, who played with the New York Giants and won a Super Bowl with them, died in 2015 at the age of 27 of a painkiller overdose. After his death, his family agreed to donate his brain to Boston University where researchers discovered that his CTE was in an advanced stage, which is rarely seen in people his age.

Dave Duerson, a 1985 Super Bowl champion killed himself in 2015, also at the age of 50. He texted his ex-wife Alicia, "Please, see that my brain is given to the NFL's brain bank."

His ex-wife said, "I believe he himself knew that there was something wrong with him. When he was found dead they found a suicide note repeating the same request."

Junior Seau, a 10 time All-Pro who played linebacker for the then San Diego Chargers shot himself in the chest at age 43.

Tom McHale, a former NFL lineman during the 90s, died at age 45 from an overdose of oxycodone and cocaine. According to his wife, he developed chronic pain in his shoulders and other joints, which caused him to begin to take in large doses of painkillers. He was suffering from depression as well and started to take cocaine occasionally, to alleviate his depression.

"One of the big things that CTE sufferers have is depression," said former Steelers team physician Julian Bailes. "Many of them end up with alcohol or drug use and abuse. And probably half the time [their life ends] by suicide. So, Psychiatric evaluation, psychiatric care is a big part of trying to get ahead of the problem, I believe. There is no CTE medication."

The NFL has been making progress in trying to reduce head injuries to its players. They have adopted rules that severely penalize head-to-head contact and targeted hits.

Valley football player Najee Morrison said, "I feel that CTE is a very scary thing because a lot of player go through it, and it can happen to anyone. It brings a little fear to me to think I can get it, but then again I try not to think about it because I know if I did, I'd probably stop playing football. But then again, since I haven't had any concussions, I feel that I won't get a CTE."

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